

# DESIGN DOCKET

## ATLANTA-BASED DESIGNERS TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

STORY: Giannina S. Bedford

Atlanta is known as a high-caliber interior design city, boosted by the Buckhead-based Atlanta Decorative Arts Center and the numerous architects and designers who call the city home. These influential creatives are leaving their marks, not only on the local interior design scene, but the international landscape. Here, we highlight a handful of established and burgeoning names from our community.



### KAREN FERGUSON HARRISON DESIGN

Karen Ferguson's award-winning designs earned her the 2019 Southeast Residential Designer of the Year award, presented by ADAC and *Veranda*. With a bachelor's degree in furnishings and interiors from the University of Georgia, she launched Buckhead-based Harrison Design's interior design practice in 2000 and remains the firm's director of interior design in Atlanta. Her expertise stretches from space planning to selecting custom finishes and furnishings. Recent projects include a rustic-yet-modern lake house in Blue Ridge and a refresh of a classic Hawaiian cottage in Maui.

"Inspiration is all around and, in my case, comes from many different places, including nature, art and travel," Ferguson says. "I do not have a signature style because I work with all different architectural styles and customize interiors for each client's unique taste. I encourage all my clients to avoid trends and focus on a timeless design."

[harrisondesign.com](http://harrisondesign.com)



Karen Ferguson doesn't limit herself to a particular style, basing her design on clients' particular taste.



Joann Vitelli

### VERONICA FLAM VERONICA FLAM ATLANTA

A native of Monterrey, Mexico, and now a Buckhead resident, Veronica Flam takes her inspiration from European trends and master designers such as Ferris Rafauli. She opened her first studio in San Pedro Garza García, Monterrey, in 2000 and has since expanded her brand to Mexico City and Atlanta. Her showroom at AmericasMart features furniture and accessories from high-end European and Latin American brands, and as a designer she strives to keep

clients' lifestyles top of mind.

"My only signature design style is that it has to always look comfortable, cozy and very elegant," Flam says. "For me, quality is the most important thing. I believe in quality goods, and once I understand what the customer wants, my job is to get the right design in the look, colors and concept in each room of the project."

One of her favorite recent projects includes outfitting a penthouse at the Solaris Residences in Vail, Colorado.

[veronicaflamatlanta.com](http://veronicaflamatlanta.com)

### IMANI JAMES IMANI JAMES INTERIORS

Imani James discovered her passion for interior design more than 15 years ago while decorating her own home. She's since studied design at the British Academy of Interior Design in London, the Istituto Marangoni in Milan and the Paris American Academy in France. Her globally influenced, high-end residential projects use internationally sourced materials and combine today's trends with classic silhouettes to create livable luxury. Her work earned her the Black Interior Designer's Network AA Top 20 Interior Designer Award in 2017.



"My signature design style includes a timeless, classic foundation emphasized with statement-making artwork," says Buckhead-based James. "While I am fond of luxurious fabrics such as velvet and silk, I also appreciate the durability of other textiles that are a better fit for a family-friendly environment."

To stay up-to-date on design developments, James attends international design trade fairs and exhibitions, and draws inspiration from her many travels. A recent project involved the multi-phased renovation of a 1980s Buckhead residence that was inspired by a trip to the South of France.

[imanijamesinteriors.com](http://imanijamesinteriors.com)